

# NEWS RELEASE

## IRAQI MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

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### **Iraq Announces Three Winners To Build Mobile Phone Systems**

BAGHDAD—Authorities in Iraq have chosen three companies to build Iraq's first national mobile telephone system. They are Asia-Cell in the North, Orascom in the central region and Atheer in the South. They are expected to offer service within weeks.

"It's time Iraq caught up with the world," Dr Haider Al-Abadi, Minister of Communications said.

The construction of the mobile telephone systems will provide a much needed service to Iraqis, and will bring hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign investment, a sign of confidence in the future business prospects of Iraq.

To ensure that as many Iraqis as possible get access to modern communications quickly, each company will be required to concentrate first on one of three regions, only being permitted to go national once it has completed a demanding build programme in northern, central or southern Iraq. The company that builds its network fastest will be the first permitted to start building in the other two regions, creating a strong incentive for all companies

"The race has begun between the three winners," Dr Abadi said.

Bids were assessed using a transparent process, based on best international practice and with reference to the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations and in compliance with Iraqi law. The panel assessed each bid using a matrix measuring the management and technical ability of the bidders and the cost of the service to the end user objectively.